

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 201707Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4096

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 745

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, JOR, UK, SF

SUBJECT: BRITISH STATEMENT ON JORDANIAN MILITARY SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA

1. FCO AUTHORIZED FOLLOWING STATEMENT FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 20:

QUOTE: WE HAVE INVESTIGATED THE GUARDIAN STORY, AND HAVE BEEN IN FURTHER TOUCH WITH THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT SINCE THE PRIME MINISTER SAW KING HUSSEIN ON 9 SEPTEMBER. OUR INVESTIGATIONS LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT CERTAIN ITEMS OF BRITISH EQUIPMENT FORMERLY BELONGING TO JORDAN ARE NOW IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT, WHO HAVE CONDUCTED THEIR OWN INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE AFFAIR, HAVE GIVEN US AN EXPLANATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY HAVE ALSO GIVEN US ASSURANCES ABOUT FUTURE DISPOSALS OF BRITISH EQUIPMENT. END QUOTE.

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, FCO NEWS DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED
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TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION:

(A) WHEN WE RAISED THE MATTER THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT DEALT WITH IT IN A FRANK AND OPEN WAY. (B) WE HAVE LEFT THEM IN NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR STRONG FEELINGS THAT BRITISH EQUIPMENT SHOULD NOT FIND ITS WAY TO SOUTH AFRICA. (C) WE BELIEVE THAT TIGERCAT AND A NUMBER OF OLD CENTURIONS ARE NOT IN SOUTH AFRICA. (D) THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT ASSURE US THAT REPORTS OF JORDANIAN TECHNICIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE INCORRECT. (E) THE EXPLANATION WE HAVE RECEIVED MUST OTHERWISE REMAIN A CONFIDENTIAL MATTER.

3. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION BY SEPTEL.
ENNENBERG

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